

# Good long-term limb salvage for diabetic foot patients

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For patients with diabetic foot ulcers, long-term limb salvage is favorable; however, long-term survival remains poor, particularly for those with peripheral artery disease or chronic renal insufficiency, according to a study published online July 18 in *Diabetes Care*.

(HealthDay) -- For patients with diabetic foot ulcers (DFUs), long-term limb salvage is favorable; however, long-term survival remains poor, particularly for those with peripheral artery disease (PAD) or chronic renal insufficiency, according to a study published online July 18 in *Diabetes Care*.

To assess the correlation between patient and limb survival in patients with DFUs, Stephan Morbach, M.D., of the Marienkrankenhaus in Soest, Germany, and colleagues conducted a prospective study involving 247 consecutive patients with DFUs and without previous major

amputation. Participants (mean age 68.8 years; 58.7 percent male; 55.5 with PAD) presented between June 1998 and December 1999 and were followed until May 2011.

The researchers found that 15.4 percent of patients experienced a first major amputation during follow-up. PAD was present in 37 of these 38 patients at study inclusion, and 51.4 percent had severe PAD. Significant predictors for the first major amputation included age (hazard ratio [HR], 1.05 per year), dialysis (HR, 3.51), and PAD (HR, 35.34). At years one, three, five, and 10, cumulative [mortality rates](#) were 15.4, 33.1, 45.8, and 70.4 percent, respectively. Death in these patients was significantly predicted by increasing age (HR, 1.08 per year), [chronic renal insufficiency](#) (HR, 1.83), dialysis (HR, 6.43), and PAD (HR, 1.44).

"In conclusion, data from this long-term study suggest strongly that limb preservation today is the rule rather than the exception, even in high-risk patients with diabetes," the authors write. "Long-term survival remains poor, however, probably because of myriad comorbid conditions for patients whose first presentation to an interdisciplinary clinic is with a diabetic foot ulcer."

**More information:** [Abstract](#)  
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